
*
* M A R I O N G R A Y *
*
* (SHORT VERSION 30 Minutes)*
*
* Property of Johnnie Speer. *
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M A R I O N G R A Y

CAST

TOBY COMEDY
HIRAM MARCO CHARACTER
ANDY MARCO LEAD
ALBERT GASKELL..... HEAVY

AMY DOUGLAS INGENUE
MARION GRAY LEAD

SETTING

Exterior of farm house yard. House I.

PROPS

Gun
Auto horn
Bonds
Telegram
Farm tool either rake or hoe
two loaded letters.

M A R I O N G R A Y

TOBY

(ENTERS WITH TELEGRAM) Uncle Hiram! Uncle Hiram! Marion. (THEY ENTER) Hurrah! Hurrah! Somebody's dead---we got a telegram. It's for you Uncle Hiram. (HANDS IT TO HIRAM)

MARION

Who can it possibly be?

HIRAM

Why it's from my old friend Bob Douglas in the city. He is sending his daughter, Amy Douglas, down here for a little visit to the country. He says the country air is just what she needs to refresh herself. She's a good lookin' gal---Amy is a society butterfly.

TOBY

Hot darn I always was good at catchin' butterflies.

HIRAM

He's also sending his confidential secretary here on some business concerning the town bank. You know my friend old Bob Douglas is a wealthy banker in New York, and he's probably going to take over the bank here.

TOBY

Maybe he'll give me a job.

HIRAM

What do you need with a job, young man? You got one---working for me. Where's that old cow? I told you to hunt that cow.

TOBY

I got her--but she ran away again. She's out flirting with that Bull Durham sign again. Shucks all I do is chase cows. I'm gonna git me another job. (EXITS L. U.)

HIRAM

Marion, we'll have to give them city folks good eats while they are here. Old Bob Douglas honors me greatly when he sends his little girl here--(LOOKS AT MARION) Marion, what's been the matter with you lately? Since you been away to the city, and then come back here to me, you ain't acted the same. Tell me, Marion, is there anything botherin' you. You ain't afraid to confide in your old Uncle, are you

MARION

There---there is nothing wrong, Uncle. (EXITS L. INTO HOUSE)

TOBY

(ENTERS ON THE RUN L U) Uncle Hiram, I'm gonna kill that darned old cow, she went waited till I got her almost milked and then upset the bucket. Durn her dang her---dd---d

HIRAM

Toby, don't swear. You never heard my son, Andy, swearing did you? My son Andy is going to be a great man some day. Maybe he will go Congress. (AUTO HORN OFF STAGE R. U.) What the tarnation is that?

TOBY

That darn cow has been wading in the creek and got the croup.

HIRAM

No it isn't it's the folks from the city---there's Amy Douglas, and that man that came with her---the private secretary. Now listen, Toby, you show some dignity and manners when they get here. Watch yourself at the table---and I want to caution you not to use your fork so much---use your knife once in awhile.

ALBERT

(ENTERS R. U. WITH AMY) Is this the place?

AMY

Of course it is. This is Hiram Marco. I remember him when I made my visit here eight years ago. Mr. Marco, my father was too busy to come so he sent me with Mr. Albert Gaskell, his private secretary. Mr. Gaskell, this is Mr. Hiram Marco---my father's best friend. And this is-- (LOOKS AT TOBY)

TOBY

I'm a nephew to Uncle Hiram--you don't know me---I wasn't here when you was here last---Uncle Hiram got me when my folks died.

HIRAM

Yes, but I didn't get much.

AMY

(LAUGHING) Oh I wouldn't say that. I think he's cute!

TOBY

(NUDGES HER) Oh, you baby!

ALBERT

Sir, I think you should be a little more reserved. (SMELLS TOBY) My! What an offensive odor.

TOBY

Shucks if you'd had a cow step on your face, you'd smell that way too.

HIRAM

Toby, behave yourself. (MARION ENTERS HOUSE) Marion, this is Amy Douglas. Marion is my niece---she's been in New York awhile then came back to me---

AMY

I'm so glad to know you. Meet Mr. Gaskell--- (MARION SEES ALBERT)

ALBERT

(LOOKS AT HER AND THEN TURNS AWAY) Great Heavens!

AMY

Why do you know each other?

MARION

I---I think we have met before. I--I'll go get something ready for dinner. I know you must be hungry.

AMY

Mr. Marco, where's your boy Andy? He must be quite a grown man now? I remember the good times we had playing together when we were kids. Why here he is now.

ANNY

(ENTERS WITH A PITCH FORK AS THOUGH HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE

3

FIELDS) Amy---Amy Douglas the little girl who visited here nine years ago.

AMY

Hardly a little girl any more---do you think? Oh I'm having so much fun---no have I met every one?

TOBY

Nope--you aint met our old cow yet. Sayk Mr. Turnup? (TO ALBERT)

ALBERT

Were you speaking to me?

TOBY

Would you like to see our farm. I'll show him around the farm if you want me to Uncle Hiram?

ALBERT

Well, I don't mind.

TOBY

Well, come on and I'll show you somebody that looks just like you.

ALBERT

Just like me? Where is?

TOBY

Out in the hog pen. (EXITS R. U. FOLLOWED BY ALBERT)

***** HIRAM

Durn that boy. Wait, Mr. Gaskell, and I'll show you the farm myself. (EXITS R. U.*

ANDY

Gee, Amy, you haven't changed a bit. You know I thought you might be a little stuck up after being away in the city and growing up into a fine lady--with all the society affairs and wealth they have there--but you're not.

AMY

And I don't intend to be either. I came down here to get away from it all, and I'm just going to run and laugh and play---and shock and disgrace you all. (LAUGHS MERRILY)

ANDY

Say there's going to an ice-cream social over at the church this week, and I'll take you to it.

AMY

I'm engaged!

ANDY

(A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED) To that fellow that come with you?

AMY

(LAUGHING) No---to you---for the ice-cream social. (THEY HOLD HANDS)

TOBY

(ENTERS R. U.) Gee whize you aint knowed each other more than a minute and you're love makin' all ready.

Toby, I'm going to give you a dutch rub for that.

TOBY

No you aint niehter--you're gonna go milk that cow---Uncle Hiram said so---that cow understand you better than she does me---and he told me to tell you.

ANDY

Oh all right. You'll excuse me? (EXITS L. U.)

TOBY

Now, I'll make love to you awhile. I know that'd give you a thrill.

ALBERT

(ENTERS R. U.) I say, Amy, don't you think it rather improper to be so familiar with these people?

TOBY

Gosh here's old frozen face---I guess I better go---Uncle Hiram said not to swear while you folks was here. (EXITS R. U.)

AMY

Robert Gaskell, I will thank you not to interfere with what I am doing. Simply because father told you that you were to look after me is no sign that I am going to listen to everything you say. and please don't spoil our visit here by making love to me again. (ANDY ENTERS)

ALBERT

Very well! Since you prefer the society of these ignorant country hicks to me ~~ear~~ of your own class, I'll not trouble you again.

ANDY

I hope us ignorant country hicks aint causin' no hard feelin's?

AMY

Certainly not. Come, Andy, I want to go with you and watch you milk that cow. (EXITS L. U. WITH ANDY)

ALBERT

The little fool. (MARION ENTERS FROM HOUSE L.) Marion what are you doing here. If I had known that you were here I would have never come near here. Have you told them that you are my wife? Are you living under my name?

MARION

No. I couldn't tell my uncle of our marriage. I have no proof of it. You deserted me, and I lost the marriage certificate. There is no proof that we are married at all. Albert Gaskell, why should I think of you and try to spare you. You found me alone and poor in New York city-- a shop girl---you deceived me by making me think your people would disinherit you if they learned you had married a poor girl----I promise to keep our marriage a secret and then you desert me.

ALBERT

(LAUGHS) You poor little ignorant country fool. Did you think that I cared for you? Why you were only a little wild oat, my dear; I've sewn a many of them!

MARION

Wild oat am I? Well, then Mr. Albert Gaskell

look out that this wild oat doesn't grow into a wild woman, and play rough with your sewing machine! (TOBY ENTERS)

ALBERT
What slang for a country girl!

MARION
I learned it in the city. I learned the ways of unclean people from you and with them I'll defeat you---as you have ruined my life. (EXIT HOUSE)

ALBERT
(STARTS FOR HER) Why you' I'll---

TOBY
Hold 'er News!

ALBERT
You! (LAUGHS) I might have known! (SNIFFS AIR) I could smell you a block.

TOBY
Well, every skunk smells himself first.

ALBERT
Do you mean to say I'm a skunk?

TOBY
I do not! We got skunks out in this country that would be a credit to you. (EXITS B. U. AS ANDY ENTERS L U)

ANDY
Mr. Gaskell, I want to talk to you while there is no one around. Awhile ago you spoke about we ignorant country folk. Well, I just want to warn you to be careful of how you say that around my father because he ain't got no book learning, but there aint no living man going to insult him if I can help it. That's all.

ALBERT
No that's not all. You are altogether too attentive to Miss Douglas and I want you to know that she is my promised wife.

ANDY
And you want me to stay away from her? Well I aint going to do it.

ALBERT
Why not?

ANDY
Cause you lied about it.

ALBERT
You insolent puppy you, I'll---(STARTS TO STRIKE HIM WITH CANE)

ANDY
(GRABS HIS HAND) Don't do nothin' foolish! See here, Mr. Gaskell, we aint got no right to mention that girl in this way, but I'm telling you I'm going to try to win her and you'd better not try to prevent it.

ALBERT
You are on your own land and courtesy demands that I respect you

But we will meet another place some day, and I'll not forget the debt that I owe you.

ANDY

And any time that you feel called upon to pay that debt, I'll give you a receipt in full.

TOBY

Yes, and if he don't, I will!

***** NUMBER ONE *****

(MARION ENTERS SITS DOWN *****

ALBERT

(ENTERS L.) Oh, Marion, do I intrude? I say, Marion, let me settle a sum of money on you to square things---

MARION

So that you can marry Amy Doublas? You have a poor memory, you forget that I am your wife.

ALBERT

Don't be too sure. Our marriage was a secret one and you have lost your marriage certificate. You have no legal proof that we were ever married. And the minister who married us is dead. He died before he ever registered our marriage with the city clerk, so you see, my dear girl, you are powerless.

MARION

Oh I'll find a way some way some how. Just remember this Mr. Gaskell every dog has his day---~~and I shall get it with him~~ and I'll have mine.
(EXITS L.)

ALBERT

I must stop that woman some way. She knows too much to suit me. (EXIT R. U)

AMY

(ENTERS L. U. WITH ANDY LAUGHING) Oh, Andy, you're too funny.

TOBY

(ENTERS BEHIND THEM) Hey, I followed you two and you had your arm around her, Andy. I seen what you two done behind that big rock. Shame all over you. You two have got me so worked up that I'm gonna--go hunt that cow. (EXITS R. U.)

ANDY

Amy, I want you to tell me something. Do people like you think rich girls ought to marry?

AMY

(SMILES) As a rule I believe they object.

ANDY

Ain't there no exceptions?

AMY

I am for one. I think if a girl is in love with a man and he is honorable she should marry him no matter how poor he is.

Andy

AMY---I---I---er---will you marry me?

AMY
Oh, Andy! (THEY EMBRACE)

HIRAM
(ENTERS L) What's this? What's this?

ANDY
Father, me and Amy is in love with each other. And we're going to get married some day.

ALBERT
(ENTERS R. U.) I have something to say about that.

AMY
Albert Gaskell, you have nothing to say.

ALBERT
No, but your father has. I have seen this love between you two growing stronger every day we have been here, and I wrote your father ---in his letter here---he warns you that if you marry Andy Marco you shall never darken his door again.

HIRAM
(TAKES LETTER) Let me see that letter. (READS) How good Bob, good old Bob write such a letter? (SIGHS) He's changed a heap sight since he left this old burg. (REVOLTING) But it ain't right! He's got to give my son an equal chance to get educated so he can marry her.

ALBERT
Never! She is going back with me tonight to New York. Come, Amy.

AMY
No. I shall marry Andy in spite of all. Andy, I am yours. (TO HIM)

ANDY
No, Amy, go back to your father---stay there---until I have proven to him that the son of a farmer is just as good as the son of a banker if he can get the proper learning. I'm going away. I'm going to make some money. I'll show the world that I am fit for you---and then you shall be mine!

HIRAM
When do you leave?

ANDY
Now!

TOBY
And I go with him. (STARTS)

HIRAM
(GRABBING TOBY BY THE SEAT OF THE PANTS) You're going to stay right here---and hunt that cow!

***** NUMBER TWO *****

TOBY
Hey, Uncle Hiram. (ENTERS WITH HIRAM) I'm gettin' tired of hunting that durn old cow for you. I wish I could have gone away with Andy. Just think he has been gone almost a whole year now.

HIRAM

I wonder how he is doing? He never writes whether he is making money or not.

TOBY

Gosh wouldn't it be awful if he didn't make no money.

HIRAM

I would feel very disappointed. Andy is the only one in my whole family that ever showed any signs of brains.

TOBY

Hey, aint I related to you?

HIRAM

Yes, Toby, but I can't help that.

TOBY

What the--hey you talk like I was a dumbell or a numbskull or something.

HIRAM

That's it, Toby; you're something. I can't figure it out! You know when you was just a little baby your mother let you drop, and you've always been kinda silly since they say.

TOBY

--w---how'd she come to l e t me drop?

HIRAM

Well, it was at the zoo. She was standing near a cage of monkeys and baboons---holding you in her arms---she gazed at them apes for a longtime, suddenly she looked down and seen you in her arms, and you looked so much like one of the apes, there she dropped you on the pavement.

TOBY

Aw---yer tryin' to kid me---you know what the folks around the village tell about you?

HIRAM

No---what?

TOBY

They say you was out playing in the pig pen one day when you was a baby, and your mother come out to get you, and couldn't tell which was you and which was the pig. She picked out what she thought looked the most like a human being---but everybody thinks she made a damn bad mistake.

HIRAM

Toby, I'm gonna tan yer hide. Get out there and hunt that cow.
(CHASES HIM OFF L. U.) (ALBERT GASKELL ENTERS R. U. AS MARION ENTERS FROM HOUSE HOUSE L.)

MARION

Albert Gaskell, what brings you here?

ALBERT

Business. Marion, I came to talk sense to you. I still love you. You're clever. After I have made a big amount of money, I'll do what

is right by you/ Now Marion I know that you could easily expose me and claim that I was your lawful husband, also I know that you are aware I am wanted for forgery, but if you will remain quiet I will see that you get what is coming to you. Listen, I want you to help me. I have here--(TAKES WALLET FROM POCKET) Western Mining Stock worth half a million which I secured from old Douglas' safety box.

MARION

You mean you stole them.

ALBERT

They are in my possession the moment Amy is my wife. I will flash the bonds on old man Douglas, ~~claim them as~~ claim them as my own, and he will not prosecute me for the sake of his daughter.

MARION

Why are you taking me into your confidence.

ALBERT

So that you will leave me free to marry Amy Douglas---let me gain legal possession of these bonds, then I will cast Amy aside and you and I will come together.

MARION

These bonds will make you wealthy? They are gilt edge.

ALBERT

Good as gold.

MARION

Let me see them. (TAKES THEM AND PUTS THEM IN HER BOSOM) Good bonds.

ALBERT

Give me those bonds.

MARION

Oh no. They are in my possession and I'm going to hold them till the game is played to the end.

ALBERT

What, are you going to do, trick me?

MARION

No, I'm going to see that you don't trick me. (EXITS L. HOUSE)

AMY

(ENTERS R. U.) Albert Gaskell, I've found you at last. You thief! You got my father to sign a paper saying that you were to sell his shares in Western Mining stock and buy Southwestern railroad stock. It is worthless. Every dime he has is gone. The people are thronging his bank doors. You must save him.

ALBERT

Little girl, you are the only one that can save your father---and to save him you must marry me at once or else be looked upon as the daughter of a convict.

AMY

Daughter of a convict. What do you mean?

ALBERT

I mean your father overstepped the u

United States banking laws; he used money that does not belong to him.

AMY

No no! This is some more of your treachery. You have taken advantage of my father because he trusted you.

ALBERT

I will admit that---but are you going to save your father?

AMY

But, Andy Marco, I love Andy---

ALBERT

Is Andy dearer to you than your own flesh and blood? Would you be happy with him knowing that you could have have saved your father, and would not? I am the only one that can save your father's bank ----unless you agree to my terms, I will see him rot in jail.

AMY

Very well---then I shall become your wife---but in name only.

TOBY

(ENTERS R. U.) Hey, look---look---it's Andy and he's come home. Hey! Andy! Come on!

ANDY

(ENTERS R. U.) Home again! (SEES AMY) Amy---you here?

ALBERT

Yes---and allow me to introduce my promised wife.

ANDY

Your wife---no no! I can't believe it. Tell me, Amy it is not true.

AMY

It is true. I did it to save my father! I marry Albert tomorrow at once.

TOBY

Well, I'll be durned.' Aint that jest like a woman?

***** NUMBER THREE *****

HIRAM

(ENTERS L. FOLLOWING ANDY) Now, Aundy, you must be reasonable.

ANDY

Reasonable! I went away---I studied---I worked like a slave to make something of myself---then when I come back to claim her as my own I find she is is promised to another man

HIRAM

Andy, where have youbeen for the past year?

ANDY

I'vebeen up in Alaska---I was prospecting---dad, I made a cool mill- fifty thousand dollars off a little discovery. I studied nights and worked days---always with her in my mind---and now ---

HIRAM

Now, we must forget, son forget! (NOISE OFF STAGE) What's that?

Why it 's Toby and that M

Mr. Gaskell arguing

ALBERT

(ENTERS R. U. WITH TOBY AND AMY) Oh don't tell me. You've done something to that car of mine.

TOBY

Go on. Yer durned old Packard aint no good that's all.

ALBERT

That car ran perfect all the way down here from New York. And now you've done something to my car to detain me---you know that I am in a hurry to drive to the nearest ministers where Amy and I are to become man and wife.

AMY

(SNEERING) Man and wife!

AMY

Oh, Andy, please don't look at me like that. Andy, I must tell you why I am doing it. My father had been speculating heavily in real estate, and he has been using money that did not belong to him. He has violated the United States banking laws. Mr. Gaskell demands as his price for silence my marriage to him. Can't you see I am doing it to save my father from disgrace and imprisonment.

ANDY

Why, Amy if you think it is your duty to save your father, then I will give you up without a word of reproach.

AMY

I must!

ANDY

Then I will say good bye---

TOBY

Maybe you won't have to say good bye---that Packard of his won't run yet.

ALBERT

(TAKES OUT GUN) You country hick, I'll give you five minutes to tell me what you done with my car that it won't run?

TOBY

Nothin'---it ain't got any gas.

ALBERT

When I came here that gas tank was full.

TOBY

Well, it aint full now, and niehter's that gun you got in your hand.

ALBERT

(LOOKING AT IT) What!

TOBY

(GRABS IT FROM HIM) Stick 'em up!

ALBERT

Why you---

Up up! Listen, Mr. Turnip, you ain't goin' no where to marry nobody.

MARION

(ENTERS L.) I should say he isn't for he is already married.

ALBERT

It's a lie, you are not my wife. (STARTS TO PUT HAND DOWN)

TOBY

Hands up!

ALBERT

I'll get even with you for this. Marion Gray, you can't say that I am your husband you have no proof.

MARRION

Oh yes I have/ You married me ~~xix~~ years ago. There has been no divorce and I am still your wife. (TAKES OUT LETTER) This letter proves all. I wrote to the place where we were married. You were mistaken when you read in the paper where the minister who married us was dead. The Reverend Montgomery Senior is dead. The Reverend Montgomery Junior is still alive. The son and not the father married us/ Now you don't dare deny that. (TAKES OUT BONDS) Amy your father has been made a fool of by this man. He is a clever forger and a thief. Do you recognize these bonds?

AMY

Yes, the Western Mining bonds. My father held them in trust for me.

MARION

And stolen by that man from your father's safe. Furthermore his real name is not Albert Gaskell, but Jimmy Morgan the forger.

ALBERT

Ah you---

TOBY

Hands up!

ALBERT

You cat, you have me cornered like a rat in a trap.

MARION

You are wise enough to know it. There is a boat leaving for South America. Don't miss it.

ALBERT

I won't!

TOBY

And don't forget your bathing suit. I'll escort you half way down the road. Hands up! Up! Up! (THEY EXIT R. U.)*

AMY

Oh, Andy, now everything is all right and we can get married. Marion how can we ever thank you for this timely exposure.

MARION

Don't mention it---just love each other and be happy that's all.

TOBY
(ENTERS R. U?) Well, he's off headin't for the steam boat.

HIRAM
In his car?

TOBY
Yep.

HIRAM
Does his car run now?

TOBY
Sure it does.

HIRAM
I wonder what was the matter with it before?

TOBY
Well, if somebody took your spark plugs out, you wouldn't be able to run either.

F I N A D E